I claim:

1. A method for operating an amusement boat ride in which passengers are transported on first and second passenger boats along a guide structure that is submerged in a watercourse, comprising the steps of moving the boats along the guide structure and controlling the movement of each boat relative to the other so that one boat closes toward, passes by and then moves away from the other boat at some location along the watercourse, and projecting water spray from said one boat onto the other as said one boat moves away from the other.

2. The method for operating an amusement boat ride as set forth in claim 1, in which the guide structure is disposed in an hour-glass pattern and including the step of controlling the operating speed of the passenger boats so that they close toward each other near the midpoint of the hour-glass pattern, and in passing project water spray onto each other as they move away from each other.

3. The method for operating an amusement boat ride as set forth in claim 1, in which the watercourse includes a spectator stand and the guide structure includes a section that guides the passenger boats toward and away from the spectator stand, including the step of moving one of the passenger boats along

the section and spraying the spectator stand with water as the passenger boat moves away from the spectator stand.

4. The method for operating an amusement boat ride as set forth in claim 1, in which the watercourse includes a spectator stand and the guide structure includes dual guide rails disposed adjacent the spectator stand with one guide rail above water and one guide rail submerged in the water defining a banked turn adjacent the spectator stand, including the step of moving one of the passenger boats along the guide rails and projecting water spray onto the spectator stand as said boat moves around the banked turn.

5. The method for operating an amusement boat ride as set forth in claim 1, in which the guide structure extends in a closed figure eight loop and includes a submerged portion and an elevated jump ramp extending over the submerged portion, including the steps of moving one of the passenger boats around the loop and over the jump ramp, and on return, guiding the passenger boat along the submerged portion of the loop beneath the jump ramp.

6. The method for operating an amusement boat ride as set forth in claim 1, in which the guide structure includes a tunnel portion, including the step of guiding a passenger boat through the tunnel portion.

7. The method of operating an amusement boat ride as set forth in claim 1, in which the guide structure is configured in a closed loop arranged in a serpentine pattern, with first and second sections of the loop being disposed generally in side-by-side relation with each other between looped end portions, including the steps of controlling the launching and operating speed of each boat relative to the other so that the boats approach and pass in close proximity to each other and then move away from each other as they travel along the first and second loop sections.

8. The method of operating an amusement boat ride as set forth in claim 1, in which the guide structure forms a closed loop, said guide structure including first and second guide channels that extend generally in alignment with each other, the first and second guide channels each including a submerged guide portion and an elevated jump ramp extending over the submerged guide portion, including the steps of moving one of the passenger boats over one of the jump ramps outbound from a launching station, and on return to the launching station, moving said passenger boat along one of the submerged guide portions and under one of the jump ramps.

9. The method for operating an amusement boat ride as set forth in claim 8, including the step of controlling the operating speed of the passenger boats so that they close toward each other as one boat nears the

entrance of one of the jump ramps and as the other boat moves away from the exit of the other jump ramp, and in passing project water spray onto each other as they move away from each other.

10. The method for operating an amusement boat ride as set forth in claim 8, wherein the jump ramps are disposed generally in side-by-side relation, including the step of controlling the operating speed of the passenger boats so that the boats close toward each other and pass in close proximity to each as they move over the jump ramps.

11. The method of operating an amusement boat ride as set forth in claim 1, in which the guide structure forms a closed loop, said guide structure including first and second guide channels that extend generally in alignment with each other, the first and second guide channels each including a submerged guide portion and an elevated jump ramp extending over the submerged guide portion, including the steps of moving one of the passenger boats along one of the submerged guide portions and under one of the elevated jump ramps outbound from a launching station, and on return to the launching station, moving said passenger boat over one of the elevated jump ramps.

12. The method of operating an amusement boat ride as set forth in claim 1, in which the guide structure forms a closed loop, said guide structure

including first and second guide channels that extend generally in alignment with each other, the first and second guide channels each including a tunnel, a submerged guide portion extending through the tunnel and an elevated jump ramp extending over the tunnel, including the steps of moving one of the passenger boats over one of the jump ramps outbound from a launching station, and on return to the launching station, moving said passenger boat through one of the tunnels.

13. The method for operating an amusement boat ride as set forth in claim 12, wherein the tunnels are disposed generally in side-by-side relation, and including the step of controlling the operating speed of the passenger boats so that they close toward each other as one boat nears the entrance of one of the tunnels and as the other boat moves from the exit of the other tunnel, and in passing project water spray onto each other as they move away from each other.

14. The method of operating an amusement boat ride as set forth in claim 1, in which the guide structure forms a closed loop, said guide structure including first and second guide channels that extend generally in alignment with each other, the first and second guide channels each including a tunnel, a submerged guide portion extending through the tunnel and an elevated jump ramp extending over the tunnel, including the steps of moving one of the passenger boats through

one of the tunnels outbound from a launching station, and on return to the launching station, moving said passenger boat over one of the jump ramps.